

John Wolsey COOK
Serial No. 10/573,079
October 1, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Five sheets of annotated drawings illustrating Figs. 1-7 and showing amendments to the drawings, as well as five sheets of replacement drawings incorporating such changes, are submitted concurrently herewith.

Attachments: 5 sheets of annotated drawings
5 sheets of replacement drawings

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Figure 1
 (PRIOR ART)

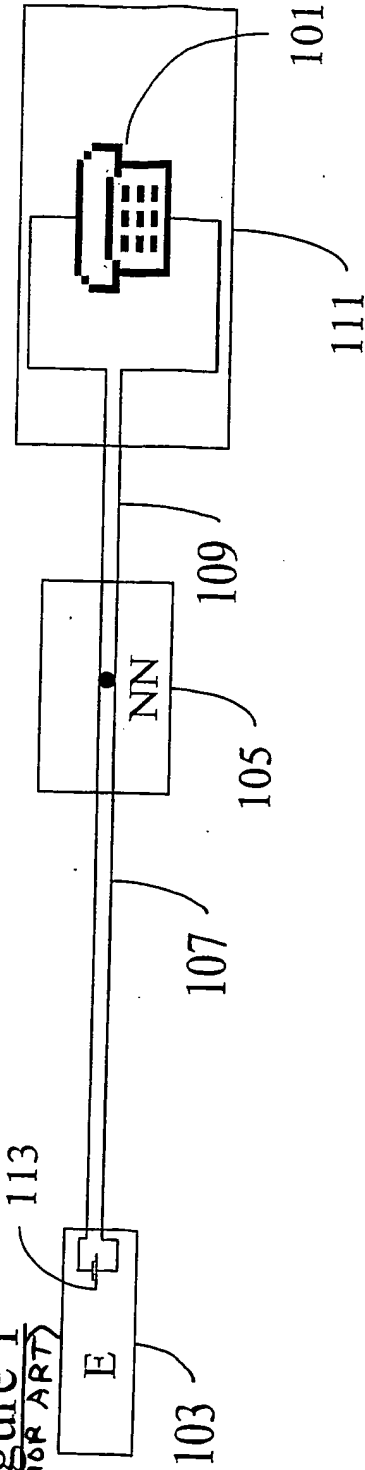


Figure 2

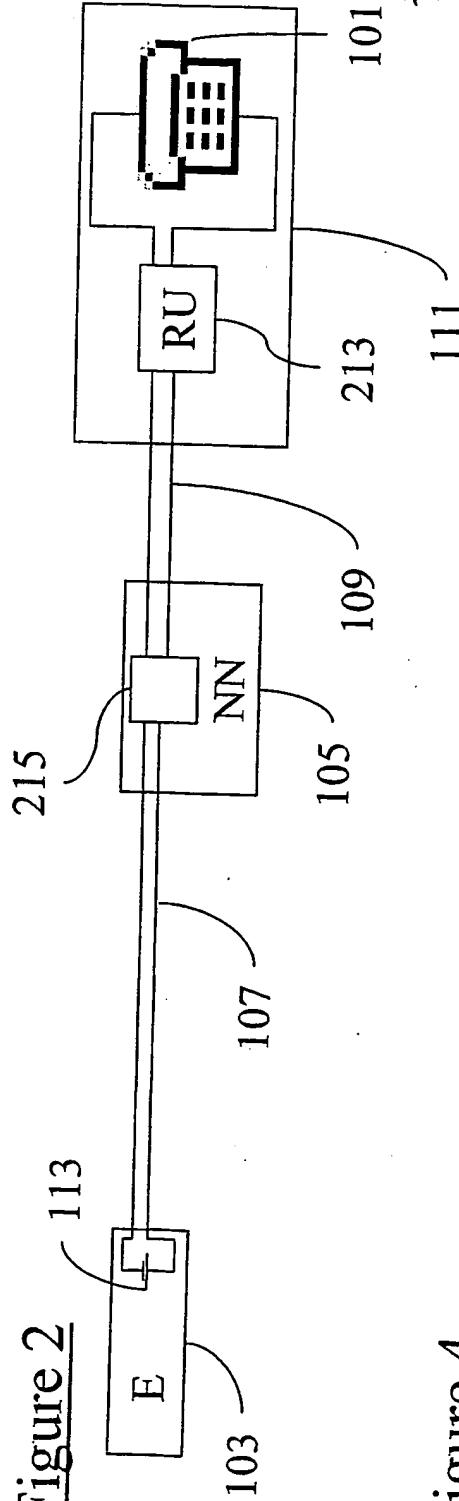
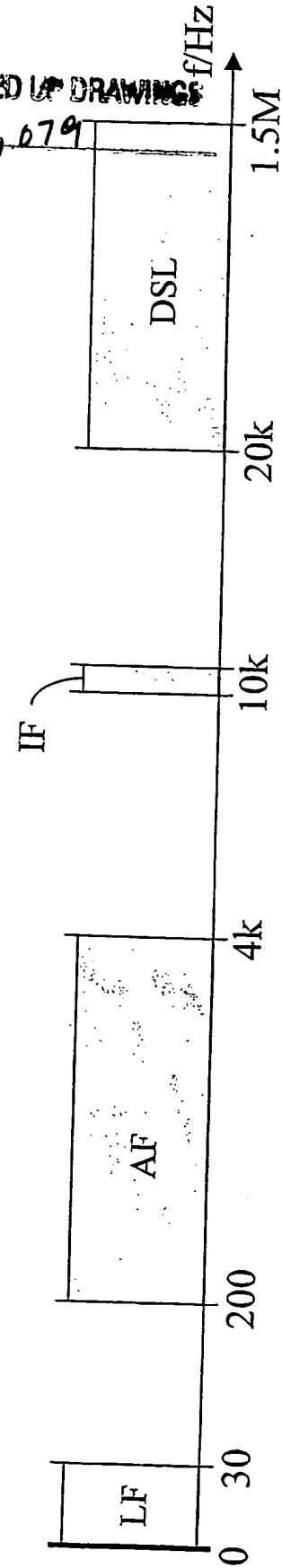
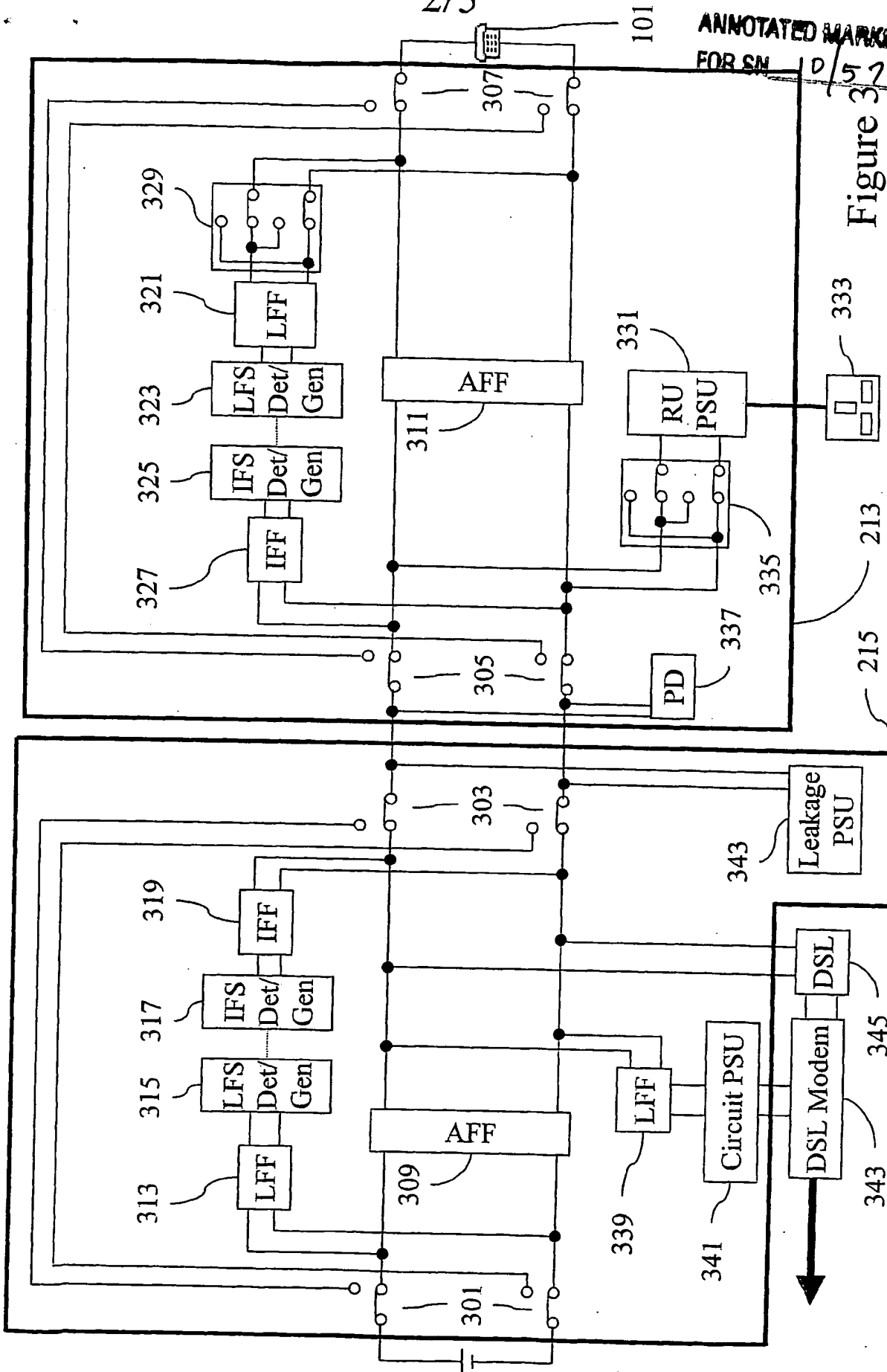


Figure 4



ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWINGS
 FOR SM 10/573,079

ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWINGS
FOR SN 10573,079



Figure

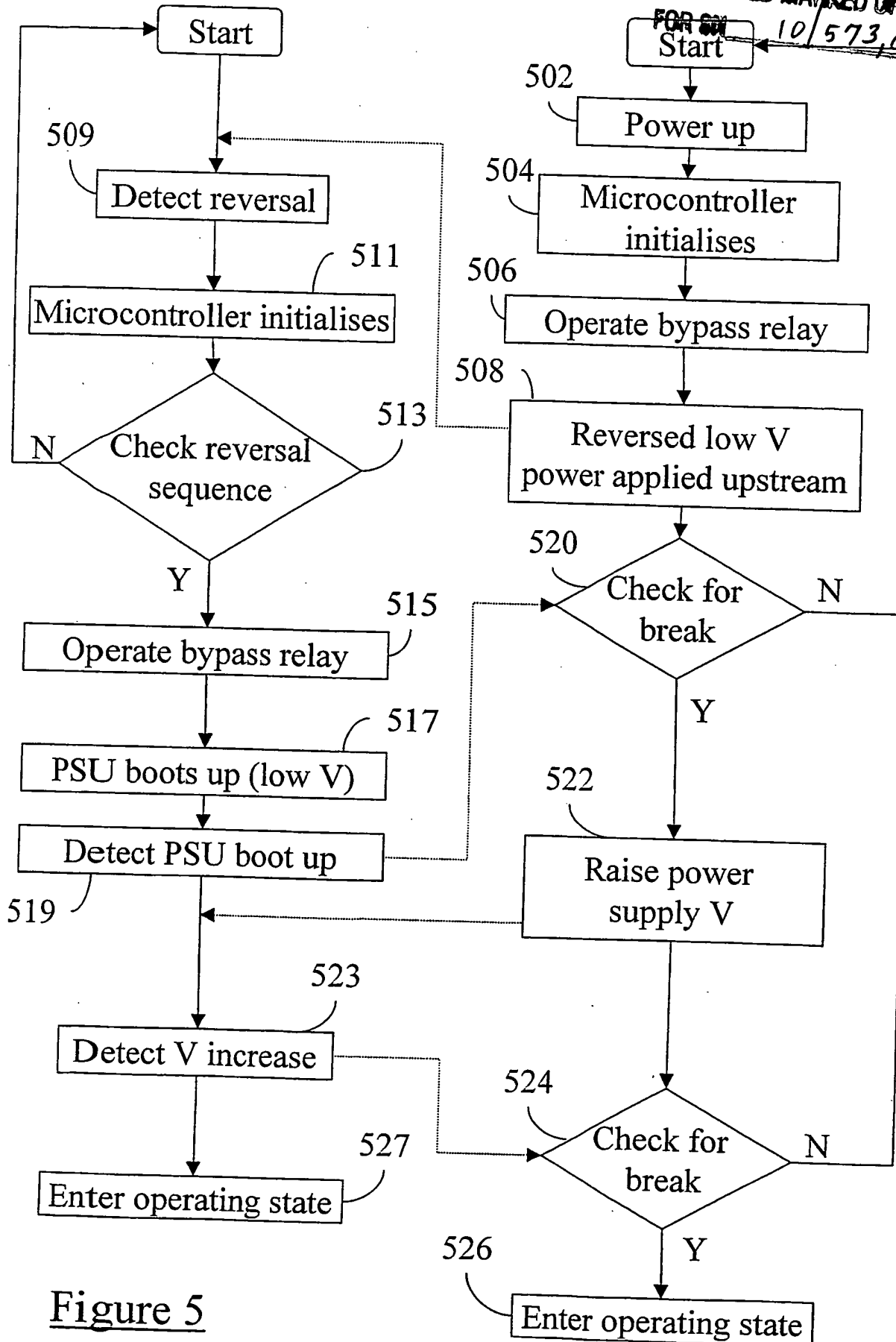


Figure 5

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ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWINGS
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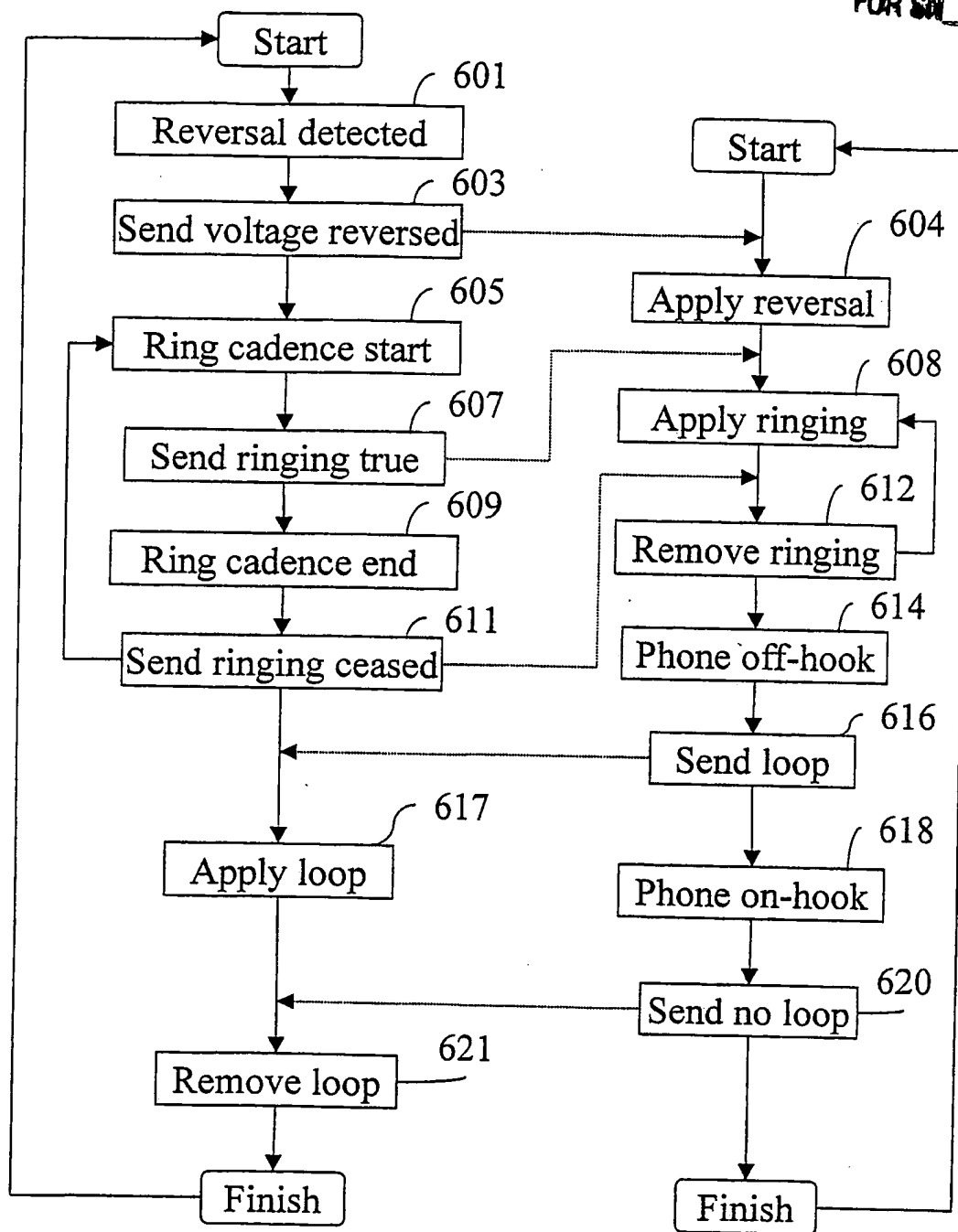


Figure 6

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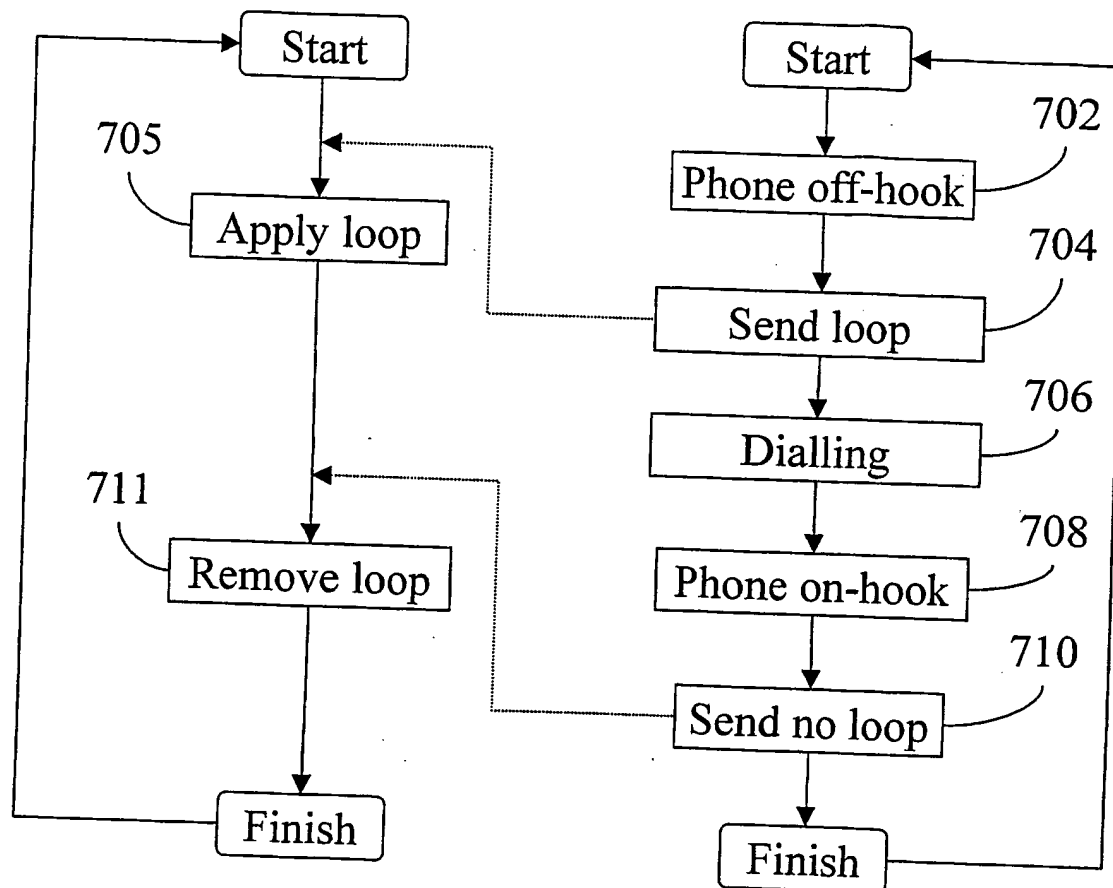


Figure 7

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-6 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Natra EP '156 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is thanked for a "response to arguments" section bridging pages 7 and 8. It is assumed that the Examiner's reference to the "second node" at line 5 of these comments was intended to refer to the "second section."

It is now apparent that the Examiner has been considering the subscriber line 21 which is completely within the subscriber facility 5 as being part of the transmission line connecting the telephone exchange 38 with the subscriber. In effect, the Examiner is interpreting the subscriber unit 10 as applicant's intermediate network node.

Accordingly, the applicant's claims have now been amended so as to more clearly reflect the situation depicted in exemplary embodiments where control signals are translated at both the intermediate node 105 and the "remote unit" 213 associated with the customer premises 111. As shown in applicant's Fig. 3, there is control signal translation from low frequency to intermediate frequency and *vice versa* (elements 313-319) at the intermediate node 215 and translation of control signals from the intermediate frequency back to the low frequency and *vice versa* at the remote subscriber unit 213 (e.g., see elements 327-329).

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By contrast, Natra only translates control signals at the subscriber facility unit 10 – and apparently requires suitable modification of the telephone exchange 38 so as to be operable therewith. Independent claim 1 has now been amended so as to reflect applicant's quite distinct system. Independent claim 12 directed to applicant's unique node has also been suitably amended – as has applicant's independent claim 13 directed to applicant's unique subscriber unit in the relevant context. Independent method claim 14 has also been suitably amended so as to better distinguish from Natra.

Dependent claims 9 and 10 add yet further patentable distinction to the claimed combination.

The rejection of claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" over Natra is also respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8 are directed to applicant's provision of a bypass transmission line and associated control switches so as to automatically provide continued POTS to the subscriber telephone in the event of power failure (e.g., see the description in the specification at pages 15-18).

By contrast, the Natra unit 10 shown in detail in Fig. 2 does not appear to have any bypass provision whatsoever. Instead, sole reliance is had upon backup power supply 90. Thus, in the event of total power failure, the Natra subscriber would apparently lose all telephone service.

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The Examiner's reference to Natra at col. 1, lines 24-34, merely refers to disadvantageous prior art approaches where power is fed from the exchange side. The Examiner's inference that, therefore, some intermediate node must necessarily function in a bypass manner "since the voltage or signals would not be altered at the node" does not appear to be a logical deduction. In any event, such a node which does not alter voltage or signals passing therethrough would not be a node of the type that has been claimed by the applicant.


The Examiner's attention is also drawn to new independent claims 15 and 16. These claims are respectively method and apparatus claims which will be recognized as quite different from the Natra teaching for at least some of the reasons already noted above.

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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition,
and a formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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